

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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■ Caltrans I-15 pavement rehab project to start October 3

Responding to commuter concerns about potential traffic delays during the rehabilitation of pavement on Interstate 15 between Fontana and Devore, Caltrans District Director Anne Mayer outlined a "new and improved" construction plan.

Work previously had been planned for Mondays through Thursdays, September 13 to November 18, with lanes reopening on the weekends for peak travel. Under the new schedule, work will begin October 3 and last for about a month, seven days per week, 24 hours per day. To the extent possible, three southbound lanes will remain open during weekday morning commute hours. During the weekday afternoons, the priority will shift to having two or three northbound lanes open.

Caltrans has been working with SANBAG and the Victor Valley Transit Authority to promote carpooling, vanpooling and using the Victor Valley Commuter bus during this construction period. Michelle Kirkhoff, SANBAG's director of air quality/mobility programs, urged drivers to call 1-800-COMMUTE or to visit www.ridematch.info to locate a ridesharing partner.

■ SB County closer to having Freeway Service Patrol

Funding for a Freeway Service Patrol program for some of the most crowded urban routes in San Bernardino County took a large step forward after a bill to fund the program was approved by both the Senate and Assembly last month, reported Kris Leathers Murray, SANBAG's director of intergovernmental/legislative affairs.

AB 2498, authored by Assemblyman John Longville and sponsored by SANBAG, would extend Freeway Service Patrols to San Bernardino County. The bill now is awaiting signature from the governor.

FSPs provide emergency roadside aid on freeways in heavily traveled urban areas at no charge to motorists. The service helps remove stalled vehicles quickly from freeways, thereby reducing traffic congestion, improving safety and mitigating pollution.

Nineteen counties in California have FSPs. SANBAG submitted an application to Caltrans to join the program a year ago but was denied, due to non-statutory guidelines that limit new entrants unless additional funding is secured for the program. AB 2498 is designed to clarify the statute to ensure that agencies that meet the eligibility criteria can participate, regardless of whether new funding is added to the program.

If the bill is signed, SANBAG could have an FSP operating by July 2005. Service would be provided Monday through Friday during peak travel times on portions of Interstates 10, 15, 215 and Route 60.



■ Transportation Summit set for September 24 in San Bernardino

The third annual Inland Empire Transportation and Logistics Summit, "A Search for Solutions," is coming September 24 to the Radisson Hotel and Convention Center in San Bernardino.

The Summit will provide an update on transportation issues and their impact on the area's economy, goods movement, real estate, infrastructure and regional planning. Hosted by the San Bernardino Community College District and San Bernardino Valley College Transportation Center, the event is sponsored in part by SANBAG.

Speakers include Jack Kyser, who will provide an economic and transportation industry update and Joseph W. Brady, who will discuss Measure 1 and its importance to the region. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has been invited to serve as the luncheon keynote speaker, but his attendance has not been confirmed. A wireless WI-FI interactive panel of speakers will answer audience questions about transportation and logistics issues.

The Summit opens at 9:30 a.m. for registration, with the program scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., including lunch. An optional tour of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Intermodal Facility will follow. For more information, call 909-382-4079 or visit valleycollege.net/transportation.

Down the road ...

- Sept. 8: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- Sept. 8: Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- Sept. 9: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- Sept. 15: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- Sept. 17: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.

Measure I offers new transportation plan for SB County

Plan to guide countywide transportation funding from 2010 to 2040

Transportation systems in San Bernardino County will receive an “extreme makeover” if voters approve the continuation of Measure I this fall.

Fifteen years ago, voters approved Measure I, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements across San Bernardino County. Measure I has funded more than 3,000 local road projects, 332 new lane miles of freeways, the Metrolink passenger rail system, low bus fares for seniors and riders with disabilities and many more transportation improvements since its inception. The sales tax will expire in 2010.

This November, county voters will consider the extension of Measure I for a new term from 2010 to 2040. If approved by a two-thirds majority, Measure I will continue to provide revenue for transportation projects and services at the current rate -- one-half cent per dollar.

Before placing Measure I on the ballot, SANBAG worked with community and business leaders to develop a Transportation Expenditure Plan that outlines the improvements to be funded by the anticipated revenue. The SANBAG Board of Directors unanimously approved the plan in June, and Measure I has qualified for the November 2 ballot. This month's issue of *Measuring Success* highlights key projects and services expected to be funded through Measure I.



Planned Measure I Projects

The Measure I Transportation Expenditure Plan outlines a number of projects and services that are designed to improve transportation countywide:

- Additional lanes or safety improvements to Interstate 10, Interstate 15, Interstate 215, Route 18, Route 30, Route 38, Route 58, Route 62, Route 138, Route 247, Route 330 and Highway 395
- Improvements to relieve traffic congestion at freeway interchanges, such as, Tippecanoe Avenue, Citrus Avenue, Riverside Avenue, University Parkway, Central Avenue, Ramona Avenue, La Mesa/Nisqualli Road and others
- Through the Cajon Pass, new lanes on Interstate 15, improvements to the Interstate 15/Interstate 215 junction and development of new lanes for truck traffic only
 - Improvements to major streets, including Bear Valley Road, Barton Road, Baseline, Mountain Avenue, Valley Boulevard and others
 - Separation of surface streets from railroad tracks at locations like Hunts Lane and State Street

- Local transportation improvements chosen by each city or town, including repairing potholes, widening streets, repaving roads, installing traffic signals or rebuilding bridges
- New passenger rail routes and more frequent Metrolink service from the San Bernardino Valley to Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties
- Expanded special transit services and continued low bus fares for seniors and riders with disabilities
- New express bus system to link major communities in the San Bernardino Valley
- Programs to make current transportation systems more effective, like Freeway Service Patrols to clear accidents quickly, traffic signal synchronization and incentives for commuters who share rides

Taxpayer Protections

Measure I includes a number of strategies to safeguard the proper expenditure of funds. Annual audits of the program will continue to be conducted by an external accounting firm, and an Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee will be formed to monitor how the funds are spent and to review the annual audits.

The Transportation Expenditure Plan also will be reviewed in 2015, 2025 and 2035 to be sure that it meets future transportation needs in the county.

In addition, Measure I includes a provision by which developers of new residential, commercial, industrial and hotel/motel properties would be required to pay a “fair share” of costs of urban freeway interchange and major street improvements, based upon a study conducted by SANBAG. These fees would help offset transportation needs created by this new development.

